The NASA Glenn Research Center Macintosh User Group

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Hello again and welcome to another NASA Mac Users' Group newsletter. Thanks to all who came out to the June meeting. I think we all learned a few things, and almost everyone went home with a raffle prize (see, we are not above bribery to get people to the meetings).

Ward Souders did a demo on Power On's Go Mac Action Utilities. Hey, you too can make your Mac look like a PC! Complete with Start button and task bar on bottom edge of screen. There is a 30-day demo CD, and if you like it, all you do is call Power On and get the serial number, pay the cost, and it's yours forever. This is a great tool for those transitioning from their PC to a real computer. Power On's web site is: **http://www.poweron.com**.   Check it out.

Melissa McGuire showed us the MUG new and improved web site. This site is only accessible from inside the firewall, however, so don't think you will be going there from your home ISP. Hopefully in the future, but not yet.

Ward Souders did a demo on setting up Quicktime 4.1 for audio and video streaming. With the previous Quicktime version, we could not do this because of the firewall, but this version gets around that little obstacle. The new Quicktime uses http streaming, so it will get past the firewall. Download the latest quicktime off Apple Computer's web site: **http://www.apple.com**. Then go into Quicktime Settings and set the preferences there. If you have any problems, please call the Help Desk to create a record and Ward or Lisa will come out to help.

MacWorld Expo was shown on the TV screens around lab. Hope some of you were able to watch. How about that cube, eh?

Kelly Heideman of VCIM has asked all MAC users to let her know via voice or email of any books they think should be in the library. She will add their requests to the list and when the budget money comes in, she'll order the books. This is a great opportunity to get books on programs you may need additional help with.

The Learning Center has just received a couple CD's for Macintosh. They stopped offering anything on the MAC because there was a lack of interest. Now the interest is picking up again with several people on lab switching from PC to MAC. The Learning Center does not have a Macintosh there yet, but if they get enough requests, they are considering purchasing one (this is a hint to call them and let them know this is a great idea). For now, they have the CD's for loan only. The CD's on hand right now are for MS Word 98 and OS 9.

Kelly of VCIM did let us know that VCIM has a handy dandy green iMAC, and would be happy if folks used it to run these CD's. Contact Kelly for information.

We raffled off several T-Shirts and other prizes at the meeting, and will have more software and other prizes (and some surprises) at the next meeting. So, mark your calendars now for **August 9** in the TDC. Apple Computer is coming back for another lunch and learn (you know what THAT means — *FREE* pizza) to talk about MacWorld Expo, OS X, and answer any questions. We are trying to get other speakers and/or demos lined up as well. If anyone has any ideas, please contact one of the officers.

See you at the meeting. Until then, happy computing.

—Lisa Madden, editor

or just involved with both, this book is invaluable. It will help any user settle in to understanding the new terms of their new system. I can only hope that if we get it here on the lab, it'll be for those Windows users lucky enough to be able to cross over to the Macintosh side.

My rating: 1/2

Other Reviews of this book:

From Rick Stringer:
   http://www.cherrymug.com/articles/ crossing_platforms/crossing.html
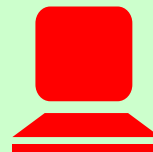
Reviews posted on O'Reilly's page
   http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/plat- forms/reviews.html

Book Excerpt:
   http://www.studiob.com/resources/ bookexcerpts/crossplatswin.html

—Melissa McGuire, President

Check us out on the web!

http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/ WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/

Crossing Platforms: A Macintosh/Windows Phrasebook

Reviewer: Melissa McGuire
Book Title: Crossing Platforms: A Macintosh/Windows Phrasebook
              By Adam Engst & David Pogue
              1st Edition November 1999
              1-56592-539-4, Order Number: 5394
Company: O'Reilly
Web Page: http://www.oreilly.com/
Book Page: http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/platforms/
Price: $29.95

Summary:
“Like travelers in a foreign land, Mac users working in Windows or Windows users working on a Mac often find themselves in unfamiliar territory with no guidebook. **Crossing Platforms: A Macintosh/Windows Phrasebook** offers users a handy way of translating skills and knowledge from one platform to the other. “

Many of our users here on the lab or in meetings have asked for some sort of reference to help those new to the Macintosh to understand the nuances and difference in the operating system from what they might have been used to. Most likely these are Windows users, who only want to understand how to eject a CD, copy a file, name a file, or create a shortcut (alias). This helpful little book, by Engst and Pogue explains just that and more.

Organized like a translation dictionary, the front of the book gives terms for a Macintosh user learning Windows and the back half gives the reverse. For example, in the Mac to Win section, I looked up what the equivalence of the MacOS Appearance Control Panel would be. Here it is: ”Display Control Panel and the Sounds Control Panel” in Windows. There are even pictures of these control panels with a description of how you can change the desktop apperance on a Windows machine.

I am a personal fan of David Pogue's writing style and appreciate all the side notes and humor throughout the book. As a reference for those using both Windows and Macintosh machines,

I'm an addict!

By Greg Patt

I had to take my 85-year-old father to the doctor the other day. Whenever I go somewhere I know I am going to be waiting, I always take my most recent issue of the magazine *Mac Addict* with me. It helps to pass the time and do something I enjoy while I am doing something I may not enjoy.

After reviewing the finer points of renal failure and fistula irregularities with my dad's doctor, he looked at me, saw my magazine clutched to my bosom and said, "So you are a Mac person in an NT world too huh?" I was kind of taken by surprise. It is like when you see somebody from your church at work or somebody from work strolling down your street at home. You know the person or situation but the connection doesn't quite fit! In this case I knew this guy as a doctor but not as a Mac enthusiast. He has moved up 10 points on my scale and I feel my dad is now getting VERY good medical care!

We had a short hardware interchange, kind of like two guys talking sports trash and then I left. But it got me thinking about myself in a "review" sort of way. I realized I truly was a Mac Addict. If you haven't seen or read a copy of this magazine, you ought to pick up a copy at your local newsstand and give it a try. You will find the articles basic, yet advanced. Simple, yet in depth. Professional but irreverent. It really does give good reviews, tips, tricks, and all sorts of info. The best and the worst part is that every issue comes with a CD that is chock full of demos, freebies and updates along with staff movies that are, should we say, a little off the wall? It would be nice if the magazine offered the option of not coming with the CD because at about $30 a year, it is a little on the high side. I've heard through the grapevine that you can get it that way, but have not, as yet checked it out further.

I also subscribe to *Macworld.* I always found that magazine a little stuffy, and miss the more casual *MacUser* magazine, but it has gone to publishing heaven. So if you are looking for a monthly magazine that you will look forward to getting in the mail, check it out. You will find their web site a little crazy and helpful too. The best part of it was it steered me to a site known as "As the Apple Turns." This site provides a daily dose of gossip, editorial comment, and stories about the Mac and its following.

www.macaddict.com/magazine/

www.appleturns.com

Greg was at NASA Glenn for ten years and was one of the original founders of the Glenn MUG. He now owns a printing company in Ohio City and teaches the wonders of the Macintosh in his spare time. He can be reached at where else but gpatt@mac.com

TIPS *and* TRICKS

KNOWN ALIAS: TIME SAVER

Things really started cookin' when Apple introduced the idea of Aliases to the OS quite a few years ago. It's like adding a secret back door to your favorite places on your Mac. And there's a keyboard combination that makes it even easier to use this valuable feature.

Let's say you've got some frequently-accessed project in a folder nested deep in a series of folders. The smart thing would be to put an alias of this popular folder on the desktop for easy access... and here's the easy, key-combination way:

Click and hold on the item you want to alias. Then, press down the Command and Option keys, and as you drag away from the selected folder, you'll notice a ghost of the folder coming along with the pointer. Also, you'll see the "alias symbol" (a right-pointing arrow beside the Pointer only while you hold down the Command and Option keys) alerting you that you're in the process of making an alias. Drag the phantom icon to the desired location and release the mouse and voila! A new alias of your fave item. And it doesn't even have the word "alias" in the name like it would if you used the old-fashioned non-keyboard combo way of doing it.

OUTTA MY WAY, BACKGROUND WINDOW

Maybe you're just such the multi-tasker that you've got a pile of windows open in the finder. But perhaps you need to see something on the desktop, say the trash can, which is covered by one of the open (but inactive) windows. Well, did you know you can move such a window without bringing it to the front? Just hold down the Command key while dragging the title bar. The window will move out of your way, and it won't come to the front in the process.

POWERBOOK/iBOOK TIP: DON'T BE BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

Laptop computers are great. You can go work in the park when you start climbing the walls of the office or home. So you go outside, it's a bright sunshiny day and, . . . you have trouble seeing your cursor on screen. Curses!

One helper in this area is the Mouse control panel. You can turn on the Mouse Tracks feature, causing the mouse to leave a ghostly trail in its wake, making it easier to see when it's bright outside.

Also, for those word processing projects, you can select Thick I-Beam, making it easier to spot when the sun's bearing down.

All the better to bask in your laptop's scant glow...

TIPS *and* TRICKS

NEW STARTUP OPTIONS

The iMac (Slot Loading), iBook, and Power Mac G4s give you the ability to choose a boot volume during the start-up process. Here's how: J*ust press and hold the Option key at startup.*

When the Mac boots, you'll see a Circular Arrow icon, along with icons for any bootable devices attached to your Mac, and an Arrow icon. If you click on the Circular Arrow icon, your Mac will rescan all busses for any bootable devices. Select your preference, then click the Arrow icon on the left to proceed with startup.

CONTROL STRIP APPEARING/ DISAPPEARING ACT

The control strip: a modern Mac wonder. One little place where you can manipulate system features, along with a variety of 3rd-party software titles like Casady and Greene's SoundJam (mp3 software) and IomegaWare (for controlling Zip drives and other removables).

But sometimes that handy little strip gets in the way of other things on screen, like pop-up folder tabs.

The obvious answer is to click the pop-out tab on the end of the strip, which collapses and expands the Control Strip, but some people don't take a liking to that method. So, here's another way, for those of you too efficient to reach for the mouse: In the Control Strip control panel, activate the Hot Key feature.

The default key combination to toggle the Control Strip is command-control-s, but you can assign a different key combination or F-Key: Just click the Define Hotkey button, and then press the desired key combination or F-Key. Try to use something that doesn't get used in any of your favorite applications—F12, for instance, since it's at the end of the keyboard (F15 on older keyboards).

Now you can summon/banish the Control Strip with a single keystroke.

GET A MOVE ON

It's no big surprise in the Mac world that you can resize open windows by grabbing the lower right hand corner. In OS9 it's even got those little diagonal ribs so your mouse can get a better grip, right? Also new in OS9, when you want to move an entire window, you don't have to grab just the title bar anymore; now you can grab anywhere along the beveled box that frames an open window. Click and drag, and the whole window will move.

Incidentally, this creates the possibility of moving a window almost entirely off the screen (by accident, assumedly). If you ever double-click on a folder and no window becomes visible, look around the edges of your monitor for a slim line of gray. You can grab that piece of the frame and pull the window back into view.

TIPS *and* TRICKS

DESKTOP ALIASES

In this Internet Age, downloading graphics files and sound files is becoming more and more commonplace.

Don't forget that desktop aliases of things like the QuickTime Player and the Quicktime PictureViewer can simplify considerably the viewing of these things.

If it's a video file or an audio file (files with three letter file extensions like .mpg, .mp3, .wav, or .mov), just drag it onto the Quicktime Player and watch it pop up onscreen.

If it's a picture (file extensions like .jpg, .gif, or .tif), drag it onto the PictureViewer alias, and it'll pop up faster than you can say "Kodak Moment." Incidentally, if you're a Photoshop user, a Photoshop alias will open most anything that PictureViewer won't, for one reason or another. If you don't own Photoshop, try downloading a copy of the venerable shareware Graphic Converter. You can find the latest version here:

Graphic Converter
http://www.lemkesoft.de/

DIAGONALLY? PRETTTTTY SNEAKY

Oh, that great Mac OS, what with the windows and the icons and the scroll bars... Fact is, there are so many ways to view things in the Finder that it's sometimes tricky just figuring out which way is best for you.

Did you know you can "scroll" diagonally in an open window? Yup. Say you've got a folder open and you've got folders and documents and icons and the whole nine yards bustin' out. Of course, the item you want is in the far reaches of the lower right corner of this folder—so far and low that you have to scroll down with the down arrow, and then use the side-to-side arrow. What a drag.

Actually a CLICK AND DRAG. And here's why: You can scroll diagonally in an open window by holding down the command key. When you do, the pointer will turn into a gloved hand, and you can then CLICK AND DRAG your way anywhere in the window. (Keep in mind that you're using the hand icon to drag the window; so to scroll down, you grab the lower corner and drag it up.) Go southwest, young Mac.

Reminder

Next User Group Meeting is scheduled for August 9 in the TDC.
Apple Computer is our guest for another Lunch and Learn
(FREE pizza).

TIPS

and

TRICKS

QUICKTIME QUICKER-UPPER

The Quicktime Player sure is a dandy, what with its brushed metal finish and Favorites Drawer. To open this 'drawer,' press command-]; choose Favorites, Open Favorites Drawer; or drag that little grip-pad below the Play button.

With the drawer open, you can simply drag your favorite clips onto the window, and they'll be available the next time you want to show them off to your friends. In fact, those pre-installed clips can also be removed by selecting Favorites, Organize Favorites (command-=) and deleting the ones you don't like.

Also, what about that dinky little volume knob? It's a pain, I know... but you can actually click and drag anywhere in the vicinity of that wheel to adjust the volume—you don't have to be pointing right at the volume wheel. Better yet, you can adjust the volume with your keyboard's arrow-up and arrow-down keys.

STEALING FROM THE SOURCE

It's not a crime to covet a cool Web page background. It's not even a crime to swipe it (most times) and here's how:

In your browser of choice, look for the menu item View Source. This will pop up a window of HTML code that may look daunting, but remain calm: What you can do is use the Find command within your browser and tell it to look for the word "background." Close to the top of the Source file, it will find that word in a string of code like "background="/pictures/homepage/image.gif" If the string starts with a backslash, copy it and paste the whole string after the root level of the Web site's URL, like this:

http://www.coolwebsite.com/(paste here what you copied from the source code)

Which, using our example, becomes this: http://www.coolwebsite.com/pictures/homepage/image.gif

The next window that loads should be that cool little background tile that you now Click-hold on and choose Save Image As from the resulting menu. Once you've saved the image to your own hard drive, you can use the cool background in your own web pages. Just keep it noncommercial (and don't use copyrighted images), and nobody'll bother you.

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Who's yer buddy, who's yer pal? Keyboard shortcuts are, that's who. Any Mac power user will tell you as much (as will PC users, bless their hearts).

If there's a way to do something "mousy" with a keyboard combination or shortcut, it's almost always going to be faster. And the end product is a more productive you, with more time to relax. Or work, whichever is more to your taste.

So remember remember remember to build your vocabulary of keyboard combinations and shortcuts into your macpertoire. In fact, most applications list keyboard shortcuts next to menu items, so if you find yourself constantly selecting the same menu item (Copy and Paste, for example), take a second to check out the keyboard shortcut—and then USE it. (If you look at the keyboard shortcut, and then go ahead and use the menu selection anyway, you're not likely to remember the shortcut.)

Cool Sites

The PowerBook Of The Future

Four new models of iMac. Three new models of G4. Two new models of Cube. No new PowerBooks. So of course, the portable scuttlebutt is going nuts. As the Apple Turns has the latest on Mercury, supposedly the latest iteration of the little notebook that could ˜ now allegedly equipped with a G4 processor.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fwww.appleturns.com%2Fscene%2F%3Fid%3D2442

Microsoft Fights For Lower Court Hearing

The war over Microsoft may well hinge on which court hears the case next. In a brief filed earlier this morning, Microsoft fired their latest salvo in the war to keep the antitrust case out of the Supreme Court.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fwww.macaddict.com%2Fcontent%2F%2Fnews%2F%2F2000%2F07%2F2 6%2F15051

Whispers Around The Water Cooler

Rumor sites have been in the news a lot lately, if for no other reason than that they've been the targets of lawsuits. So are rumor sites a help or a hinderance? MacSpeedZone asked that question of its readers, and the results may surprise you.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fwww.macreviewzone.com%2Fframes2000%2Fmacgenepool.shtml

Models of Your Favorite Mac?

Here's a web page with pics of paper models you can make of various Macs. Just print out the image, cut and fold at the appropriate places and you've got a paper model of your favorite mac.

http://www.theapplecollection.com/Collection/PaperMac/index.shtml

Macworld Expo Sets Attendance Record

Apple's major announcements last week went out to a huge audience ˜ IDG World Expo claims that 61,000 people showed up, making Macworld Expo New York the second-biggest IT trade show the city has seen this year.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fwww.macaddict.com%2Fcontent%2F%2F%2F2000%2F07%2F26%2F150 88

Cool Sites (cont'd)

The G4 Cube: Just A First Step?

So what does the future hold for the G4 Cube? C.J. March has some interesting theories: Fast and easy clustering for businesses that need it, without huge IT investments. How about dropping the cube into your car, so that directions, pictures of landmarks, and contact lists are instantly available?" Assimilation, indeed. Read the full showcase of ideas at OS Opinion.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fwww.osopinion.com%2FOpinions%2Fcjm%2Fcjm2.html

The Best Way To Get Free Stuff

So you're home from the Expo, you're sifting through the product literature you picked up, and you're getting ready to download demos of cool products. Better make sure your FTP program is up to snuff. MacSpeedZone takes a look and picks the best.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fmacspeedzone.com%2FComparison%2FFTP_Clients.html

Tech Stocks Down, Apple Stocks Up

Why does Apple consistently manage to climb even as other tech stocks plunge? Who cares as long as they keep doing it? Wes George rounds up the day's ticker action at MacObserver.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fwww.macobserver.com%2Fstockwatch%2F2000%2F07%2F27.1.shtm l

What's Hot And What's Not About Dual Processors

So what, exactly, are dual processors good for? Is there a hidden cost? Are the naysayers justified? Marvin Smith takes a look at MacMilitia.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fwww.macmilitia.com%2Fhomefront%2F072400.shtml

Pardon Me, But Is That An Elephant On Your iMac?

We're not sure which we find stranger: the concept of a Mac-using elephant or the concept of a lawyer with a sense of humor. Is it possible that Apple is, in fact, harboring one of each? No one's talking, but As The Apple Turns has an interesting take on the strangest rumor you never heard.

http://www.macaddict.com/cgi-bin/redirect.cgi?inside_sources=1&target =http%3A%2F%2Fwww.appleturns.com%2Fscene%2F%3Fid%3D2436